

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor Wilson

SUBMITTAL DATE:
April 22, 2008

SUBJECT: Resolution Supporting Additional Funding for Judges in Riverside County

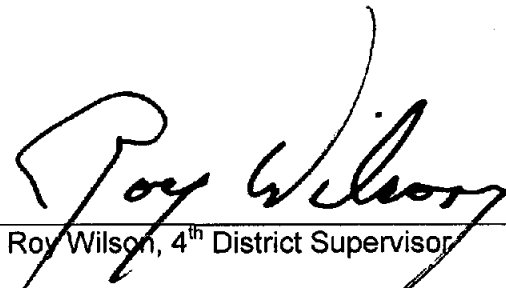
RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors approve the attached Resolution requesting the Governor and Legislators to prioritize funding to mitigate the County of Riverside's urgent need for additional judicial officers.

BACKGROUND:

The shortage of judges in Riverside County is well-documented, and has worsened with the dynamic growth of the County in recent years. Currently the County has only slightly more than half of the judicial officers it needs to adequately address the criminal case load.

The attached resolution urges Governor Schwarzenegger, Senator Denise Ducheny and Senator Bob Hutton to prioritize state funding for these critically needed judges.

Departmental Concurrence



Roy Wilson, 4th District Supervisor

2 RESOLUTION NO. 2008-202

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4 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
5 IN SUPPORT OF ADDITIONAL JUDGES BEING ALLOTTED TO RIVERSIDE COUNTY

6 WHEREAS, the County of Riverside has a total of 76 judicial officers, and

7 WHEREAS, State court figures, based on population and caseload, indicate the County of Riverside
8 should have as many as 133 judicial officers, and

9 WHEREAS, unprecedented case loads have resulted in the dismissal of felony and misdemeanor
10 cases, and

11 WHEREAS, last minute trial assignments have resulted in victims being required to travel over 50
12 miles to testify, as well as, create a reduction in law enforcement as a result of such trial assignments, and

13 WHEREAS, civil matters have been virtually stopped as a result of priority given to criminal
14 matters causing access to resolution of civil disputes to be alarmingly delayed, and

15 WHEREAS, the caseload in Riverside County is so great and the backlog of criminal and civil
16 matters so significant, it cannot be resolved by providing additional short-term resources as the State has
17 done since August, 2007, and

18 WHEREAS, the citizens of Riverside County deserve and are entitled to access to the judicial
19 systems that can only be obtained through the allocation of sufficient resources.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside,
21 assembled in regular session on April 22, 2008, that the Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor of
22 California and Senator Denise Ducheny and Senator Bob Dutton are urged to work with the legislature to
23 prioritize funding for the desperately needed judicial positions in the County of Riverside.